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Potes

[Contributions in the form of notes or discussions should be sent to John A. Scott, Northwestern University, Evanston, Ill.]

NEPOS AND ROMAN PRAISE OF HANNIBAL

On page 265 of the Classical Journal for February, 1921, Mr. Louis E. Lord, of Oberlin College, writes, "In all Latin literature I know of no generous tribute to Hannibal." Evidently Mr. Lord has overlooked or has forgotten the first chapter of Nepos' life of Hannibal:

Si verum est, quod nemo dubitat, ut populus Romanus omnis gentis virtute superarit, non est infitiandum Hannibalem tanto praestitisse ceteros imperatores prudentia quanto populus Romanus antecedat fortitudine cunctas nationes. Nam quotienscumque cum eo congressus est in Italia, semper discessit superior. Quod nisi domi civium suorum invidia debilitatus esset, Romanos videtur superare potuisse. Sed multorum obtrectatio devicit unius virtutem.

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THE TEST OF THE PATRONYMICS

Wilhelm Meyer's dissertation de Homerici Patronymicis, Goettingen, 1907, was immediately welcomed as a work of very great importance by reviewers and critics, as I have already shown in Classical Philology, VII, 293.

The summary of his results was given by him as follows: "The patronymics grow rarer, not only in the later portions of the *Iliad*, but also in all parts of the *Odyssey*. From this decreasing use of the patronymics it is evident that there must have been an interval of many years between the composition of these two poems."

This dissertation was passed upon by two scholars of the standing of Schwartz and Wackernagel, as well as submitted to an *Examen rigorosum*, so that in my previous paper I accepted many of his statements as facts and tried to bring them into harmony with my own beliefs in the unity of the Homeric poems.

In my previous discussion I explained the difference in the number of the patronymics, as shown in the two poems, as due to the fact that there are so many more heroes in the *Iliad*, men of patronymic rank, while in the *Odyssey* many of the actors are mean or commonplace, hence could hardly have that honoring epithet.